

Why does GRC permit diesel trucks to be left running, unattended?

When making deliveries, the drivers run inside a building to get a signature. Sometimes, once they're inside a building, they get held up waiting for a signature. If they leave to shut off, they may miss the signer, etc. - takes some judgment. But, still, why not shut off the engine, even if it's just a short time?

#1 The diesel engines need to be warm to operate properly, especially in the winter. In winter, the diesel engines are plugged in overnight to keep them warm.

#2 If they shut off and turn on too much, it uses up a lot of battery power. On top of that, the truck needs to run to recharge the batteries. They did try this a while back, shutting off and on constantly. The batteries eventually went dead, and Howard Gregory and the gang went nuts charging batteries.

#3 Shutting off and starting up, over and over, every day, causes the starters to go bad.

#4 There is a time problem for first responders - dead batteries, scraping windows in winter, etc.

#5 Like a gas engine, if you shut off the engine for under two minutes, you actually waste gas/diesel. Todd says it's over two minutes for diesel engines.

#6 Most of us live in offices all winter. The drivers deliver to places like the west area where there is nowhere to warm up. (Plus, at certain times of year, I would think going out to a cold truck with ice on the windshield many times a day, every day, isn't pleasant.)

Some drivers do abuse the privilege, and these cases are dealt with one by one. If anyone has an issue, give Todd the building number, type of truck, anything you can - specifics.

Also, some additional input from Betty Hodgson in Industrial Hygiene: For IHT's purposes, these issues are understood and leeway is given. But when a building or shipping dock has ground level air intakes, the engines need to be shut off - especially a certain dock in the back of Bldg 77.

It's probably a good idea, if you are concerned about a specific truck or location, to give any info to Betty & Todd. General statements such as, "It seems to happen a lot" won't help.

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